



Colorado River Management Plan Concessions Management

For nearly a century, it has been the policy of the Congress that visitor accommodation, facilities, and services be provided in units of the National Park System by concessionaires in such a manner as to preserve area resources and values, provide for their enjoyment by present and future generations, and guard against unregulated and indiscriminate use.



Commercially guided river clients are park visitors seeking a recreational experience. A variety of trip types, lengths, amenities, and costs has been established to serve a wide spectrum of commercially guided river clients.



Did You Know?

- By 1950, 100 people were known to have run the Colorado River in Grand Canyon National Park. The National Park Service first licensed commercial guided river trips in 1972. Those permits were renewed and converted to Concession Contracts in 1984, and renewed again in 1996. Originally, there were 24 authorized concessionaires; today 16.
- Total commercially guided use (May 1, 2001 - April 30, 2002) was 18,723 passengers. Of those, 17,669 (94%) were on the river between May 1 and September 30, 2001, and 1,054 (6%) were on the river between October 1, 2001, and April 30, 2002.
- Oar-powered commercially guided boats may launch at any time of the year. Motorized commercially guided boats are prohibited from launching between September 16 and December 15, inclusive, to provide a non-motorized season.
- "Quieter Technology" four-stroke outboard motors have been required and used on commercially guided trips since April 15, 2001.

Commercially guided groups are limited to:

- 36 passengers
- Less than 150 people/day launch from Lee's Ferry
- Maximum of 50 miles/day
- Average of 40 miles/day
- Maximum 55-horsepower motors



Motorized Operations

- 12 concessionaires provide both motorized and oar-powered trips.
- Trip lengths range from 3 to 13 days (partial canyon to full canyon trips).
- 2002 prices range from \$695 to \$3,380.
- 2001 gross receipts were \$24.2 million.
- 2001 franchise/CRF fees paid were \$2.1 million. Standard entrance fees are also paid.
- Primary Season (May-September) user day allocations per concessionaire vary from 2,500 to 13,257 user days.
- Total Primary Season user days available are 90,721.
- Secondary Season (October-April) user day allocations vary per concessionaire from 343 to 750 user days.
- Total Secondary Season user days available are 5,580.



Oar-Powered Operations

- 4 concessionaires provide exclusively oar-powered trips.
- Trip lengths range from 3 to 22 days (partial canyon to full canyon trips).
- 2002 prices range from \$760 to \$4,035.
- 2001 gross receipts were \$4.7 million.
- 2001 franchise/CRF fees paid were \$0.3 million. Standard entrance fees are also paid.
- Primary Season (May-September) user day allocations per concessionaire vary from 2,325 to 4,912 user days.
- Total Primary Season user days available are 15,435.
- Secondary Season (October-April) user day allocations per concessionaire vary from 343 to 2,443 user days.
- Total Secondary Season user days available are 3,764.

